

**SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICTS: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ITS IMPACT ON
DIASPORA NIGERIAN SETTLERS**

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Abstract

This study titled South Sudan Conflicts: A Critical Analysis of Its Impact on Diaspora Nigerian Settlers investigates the socio-economic implications of conflict, the responsiveness of Nigerian diaspora policy frameworks, and the coping strategies adopted by Nigerian migrants residing in conflict-affected regions of South Sudan. Anchored on the Conflict and Migration Theory by Myron Weiner (1996), the research employed a descriptive survey design, targeting Nigerian diaspora communities in Juba, Wau, and Bor. Using Taro Yamane's formula, a sample of 300 respondents was drawn from a population of 1,200. Data were collected via structured questionnaires and analyzed using SPSS version 25, employing descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, including mean scores and standard deviation. Findings reveal that the conflict has had significant socio-economic consequences on Nigerian migrants. Notably, respondents reported disruption in employment and income opportunities (Mean = 3.92, SD = 1.27), reduced ability to remit funds (Mean = 3.70, SD = 1.33), diminished access to services (Mean = 3.67, SD = 1.29), and forced displacement (Mean = 3.65, SD = 1.33). Additionally, the effectiveness of diaspora policy frameworks was found lacking, with low mean ratings on government protection (2.92), awareness (2.82), and NiDCOM's effectiveness (2.98), but high concern for policy implementation gaps (3.83). Coping strategies were dominated by digital communication (Mean = 3.85, SD = 1.22), faith-based practices (3.80), and mutual aid (3.62), while peace building participation was low (3.37). The study concludes that conflict deeply affects diaspora livelihoods and reveals urgent policy and protection gaps. It recommends targeted relief programs, robust diaspora policy reforms, and structured inclusion of migrants in peace building initiatives.

Keywords: Livelihood disruption, weak diaspora policy response, strong informal coping

Introduction

The South Sudan conflict has had far-reaching consequences, not only within its borders but also on Nigerian diaspora settlers residing in the region. As waves of political instability, armed violence, and humanitarian crises continue to affect South Sudan, Nigerian migrants many of whom contribute significantly to remittance inflows and regional labor economies—find themselves increasingly vulnerable (World Bank, 2025; UNDP, 2025). This journal critically examines the multidimensional impact of these conflicts on Nigerian diaspora communities, particularly in terms of disrupted livelihoods, remittance capacities, and psychosocial well-being. Research underscores that diaspora communities are not passive victims in conflict zones; rather, they often engage in peacebuilding, humanitarian response, and transnational activism (IOM, 2024; Chinwe & Adeyemi, 2025; Ezeani & Ukaegbu, 2024). However, conflict-induced displacement can weaken these networks, threatening both individual security and broader developmental contributions (Adewale & Eze, 2025; Ibrahim & Onuorah, 2025). This study situates its analysis within the broader discourse on migration governance and diaspora policy frameworks, drawing on current initiatives by NiDCOM (2025) and the Federal Government of Nigeria (2025) to strengthen diaspora resilience amid global instability.

The protracted conflicts in South Sudan have triggered widespread insecurity, humanitarian crises, and forced displacement, impacting not only local populations but also foreign migrant communities such as Nigerian diaspora settlers. As conflict intensifies in parts of South Sudan, Nigerian migrants many of whom had established economic and social livelihoods are now exposed to violence, loss of income, and constrained mobility. According to the International Organization for Migration (2024), diaspora communities residing in conflict zones are often at the frontlines of displacement and humanitarian vulnerability. This has significant implications for Nigeria's broader diaspora ecosystem, especially regarding remittance flows, economic contributions, and regional integration efforts (World Bank, 2025; UNDP, 2025). The intersection of armed conflict and diasporic migration highlights the urgency of rethinking transnational protection, economic resilience, and political inclusion mechanisms for Nigerian migrants living in volatile regions.

At the same time, the Nigerian diaspora has consistently played transformative roles in post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding, and national development through remittances, knowledge transfer, and policy advocacy (Ibrahim & Onuorah, 2025; Chinwe & Adeyemi,